UNITED STATES ...MENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 2, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Name Check

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

SYNOPSIS

The attached clipping from the 9/29/64 issue of the "Washington Post and Times Herald" sets forth the names of 84 individuals who comprised the staff and employees of the captioned Commission. Pursuant to the Director's request, Bureau files have been reviewed concerning these individuals and brief summaries follow.

Briefly, Bureau files contain derogatory information concerning the following individuals or their relatives.

Staff Members: Alfred Goldberg (page 2); Richard Mitchell Mosk (page 11).

Assistants to J. Lee Rankin (page 2): Francis W. H. Adams (page 3); Joseph Anthony Ball (page 4); William T. Coleman, Jr. (page 5); Burt Wagner Griffin (page 5); Leon D. Hubert, Jr. (page 6); Albert E. Jenner, Jr. (page 7); Norman Redlich (page 9); Howard P. Willens (page 10).

Lawyers, Secretaries and Clerks: Stephen G. Breyer (page 12); Paul Dodyk (page 12); Lela B. Hewlett (page 14); Elaine Johnson (page 14); Ella McCall (page 14); Jay Vogelson (page 15).

ACTION:

For information.

Enclosure

GHS:ncb (8)

ENCLOSURE

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
Re: President's Commission

ALFRED GOLDBERG, Staff Member

Mr. Goldberg is a historian with the Air Force and teaches part time at the University of Maryland.

He was investigated in 1954 under the Security of Government Employees Program. Bureau files indicate that it appears that our investigation of Mr. Goldberg stems from an allegation made by one Mrs. Evan that in a conversation with Mrs. Goldberg she, Mrs. Goldberg, defended Owen Lattimore, Gunther Stein and Israel Epstein and stated that probably the communist government of China was right.

The investigation developed nothing regarding any disloyalty on the part of Mr. Goldberg, but did indicate that he has been active in local nonpartisan politics in Arlington, Virginia. (140-2429)

ARTHUR K. MARMOR, Staff Member

No investigation has been conducted and Bureau files contain no identifiable derogatory data re this person. In 1948 we conducted a Departmental Applicant investigation of Margot Marmor, believed to be his spouse, when she was applicant for translator, Office of Alien Property. No derogatory data was developed. (77-41427)

EDWARD A. CONROY,
JOHN J. O'BRIEN, Investigators

Both individuals were assigned to the Commission from the Internal Revenue Inspection Staff.

Neither have been investigated by the Bureau and our files contain no pertinent information identifiable with them.

J. LEE RANKIN, General Counsel

Mr. Rankin has been investigated twice by the Bureau. An applicant-type investigation was conducted in 1953 prior to his employment with the Department. He was again investigated in 1955 when he was being considered as the Department's representative to the President's Committee on Disarmament Problems. Both investigations were favorable and our relations with him while he was Solicitor General of the United States were cordial. Mr. Rankin is on the Special Correspondents List on a first name basis.

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Additional information in Bureau files reveals that Mr. Rankin, as general counsel of the President's Commission, was contacted in 1964 relative to his knowledge of Norman Redlich, consultant to the Commission, who has a subversive background (see write-up page 9). He stated that Redlich, who joined the President's Commission at his (Rankin's) request, was an "active civil rights libertarian." Rankin advised that Redlich had done work for the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and was carried on its National Council. He advised that Redlich was critical of the House Committee on Un-American Activities because of their tactics and treatment of some witnesses. Rankin stated he had no doubt concerning Redlich's loyalty or devotion to the United States and recommended him for a position of trust and confidence in the Government. (77-55004; 140-29239)

FRANCIS W. H. ADAMS, Assistant to Rankin

Bureau files reveal that we had cordial relations with Adams while he was U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1935. "The Tablet," a Catholic Weekly, dated 4/20/40, at Brooklyn, New York, carried an article captioned "FBI Engineered 'Plot' Asserts Star Witness." This article went on to relate that Adams, representing one of 16 defendants charged with sedition, referred to the FBI as the "Federal Bureau of Instigation" and got from one Dennis Healy an admission that the Bureau instigated all the moves made to ensnare the defendants. Regarding this, the Director commented "This statement certainly doesn't jibe with his alleged friendliness."

In September, 1949, Adams appeared on a radio program dealing with the loyalty program and was most commendable in his remarks concerning the FBI. The "Daily Worker" of 6/9/50 carried an article captioned "Ask Halt to Move to Disbar 11's Lawyers." This article indicated that a demand that disbarment proceedings against two attorneys for the eleven top communist leaders be dropped was voiced at a conference with Adams, the counsel for two bar associations.

In 1961, the Department requested an investigation be instituted concerning Adams who was then being considered as a U. S. District Judge in New York. Investigation was discontinued when his name was withdrawn during the investigation although the Attorney General's office did not elaborate on the reasons for this withdrawal. No derogatory information was developed during this limited investigation. Adams is on the Special Correspondents List. (62-100685)

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JOSEPH ANTHONY BALL, Assistant to Rankin

Mr. Ball was investigated by the Bureau under the Federal Employees Security Program in 1964 at the specific request of J. Lee Rankin, general counsel, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Ball, a prominent California attorney, is a current member of the U. S. Judicial Conference Advisory Commission on Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures, appointed by the Supreme Court to consider changes in rules. During a Ninth Judicial Circuit Panel discussion in 1962, Ball advocated Federal court rules be liberalized to enable the defense to get a closer look at prosecution cases before trial.

The investigation disclosed that Ball is generally regarded as "civil rights libertarian" and has consistently injected himself in support of the civil rights movement. He has been active in the American Civil Liberties Union and was leader in a committee of the California Bar in 1949 which vigorously opposed legislation to require loyalty oaths for attorneys in California. He headed the legal defense of George Shibley, member of the Communist Party, who in 1953 was convicted of conspiracy in theft of Government records from a U. S. Marine Base. In 1950, Ball headed "Kenny for Senate Committee" on behalf of Robert Kenny, a Communist Party member in the 1940's and active in communist fronts as late as 1963. Ball has been affiliated with the National Executive Board of the National Lawyers Guild (cited by House Committee on Un-American Activities) and he congratulated Benjamin Dreyfus upon his election as a national president, National Lawyers Guild, in 1960. Dreyfus is a subject of the San Francisco Office.

Investigation further revealed that Ball has been affiliated with or sponsor of organizations cited by either the Attorney General or the House Committee on Un-American Activities. (140-29260)

DAVID W. BELIN, Assistant to Rankin

Bureau files contain no pertinent information identifiable with Belin.

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WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR., Assistant to Rankin

Coleman was the subject of an applicant investigation in 1959 requested by the White House. He is a Negro lawyer from Philadelphia and was then being considered as an alternate member of the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy. The investigation generally developed no derogatory information. Coleman was described as a bright and astute individual. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 and with the same distinction from Harvard Law School in 1946, being first in a class of 75 law students. He was editor of the "Harvard Law Review" in his senior year. Coleman has been a vigorous champion of the rights of the colored people; however, he has always sought to accomplish the removal of all legal barriers with regard to racial discrimination by means of legal process. He has been active on the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and one attorney described Coleman as very conservative in his political outlook.

The only derogatory information developed concerning Coleman was [redacted]

MELVIN A. EISENBERG, Assistant to Rankin

Bureau files contain no pertinent information identifiable with Eisenberg.

BURT WAGNER GRIFFIN, Assistant to Rankin

Griffin was the subject of a Departmental Applicant investigation in 1960 when under consideration as Assistant U. S. Attorney (AUSA), Northern District of Ohio. Investigation was generally favorable; however, from June, 1957, to September, 1957, he was employed doing research work for Alan F. Westin, who in 1953 voluntarily advised the Bureau that he had been a Communist Party member in 1948, leaving the Party in April, 1949. From August, 1959, to August, 1960, he was employed by the Administrative Office of United States Courts, of which Warren Olney is Director. He left this position to become AUSA in Cleveland Ohio, leaving that position in October, 1962, to enter private law practice. (77-83795)

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Local press in Dallas, Texas, reported that Griffin, President's Commission investigator, in the Spring of 1964, had been removed from Dallas by the Commission as the result of protests by the Dallas County District Attorney and other local officials that Griffin used improper tactics in questioning a Dallas police officer and called the officer a liar. On 4/17/64, Frank L. Ellsworth, Special Agent of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Tax Division, Treasury Department, advised a Dallas Agent that he had been interviewed several nights previously by the same Commission employee who had been involved in difficulty during interview with a Dallas police officer indicating it was Burt Griffin. The general questioning of Ellsworth by the Commission investigator concerned Cubans and gun activities with which Cubans were connected in the Dallas area, and the Commission investigator then inquired of Ellsworth what he knew concerning two FBI Agents assigned to Dallas. When Ellsworth inquired of the investigator what connection this had with the inquiry into the President's assassination, Ellsworth stated he received a most evasive answer. Thereafter, the Commission investigator asked Ellsworth about the relations with the FBI and whether there had been any instances where the FBI had withheld information which should have been disseminated. Ellsworth stated he advised the Commission investigator that the relations with the FBI in Dallas were excellent. (62-109060-3065)

LEON D. HUBERT, JR., Assistant to Rankin

The Bureau investigated Hubert in 1937 as a Departmental applicant when he was under consideration for appointment as Assistant U. S. Attorney in New Orleans, Louisiana. This investigation was favorable. He was considered brilliant, above average in ability, excellent personal character, habits and reputation. (77-8959)

In 1955, a letter was received by the Bureau from the Anticommunist Committee of the Americas, which in part stated that a condition precedent to the last election of the Mayor of New Orleans was his acceptance of Leon Hubert as District Attorney of New Orleans. The letter further alleged that Hubert had been a protege of one Dr. Mitchell Franklin, a law professor at Tulane University, who was allegedly an admitted addict of Russian communism and a long-time vice president of the National Lawyers Guild (cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities). The letter indicated that the committee did not contend that Hubert was a communist or knowingly aided and abetted subversion. However, the committee believed that Hubert was inexperienced, naive, and was permitted to become District Attorney so that there would be no prosecution under the Louisiana Communist Control Act.

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In 1956, Hubert contacted our New Orleans Office and offered the services of his wife as a translator of Slavic languages. At that time, files were reviewed and revealed that Hubert had been a member of the National Lawyers Guild but had resigned in 1940.

In addition, our files reveal that Guy Banister, former SAC, had contacted the Bureau's New Orleans Office in July, 1956, and confidentially advised that within a short time several top heads of the New Orleans Police Department would "roll." Banister indicated that corruption among the city officials in New Orleans was great and indicated that he had enough on District Attorney Hubert and the rest of the city officials to charge them with malfeasance. He did not explain or clarify the type of charges he intended to press. (77-72922)

ALBERT E. JENNER, JR., Assistant to Rankin

Jenner, born 1907, Chicago, Illinois, is a lawyer. We have not investigated him; however, files show he was a member of United States Loyalty Review Board, 1952-53, and since 1956 served as a Special Assistant Attorney General of the State of Illinois. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Federal Civil Rules.

In March, 1951, the Illinois Senate sitting as a committee conducted hearings on a bill which provided that persons affiliated with organizations advocating the overthrow of the Government be barred from public office and teaching positions. At this hearing a statement prepared by Jenner was read. These were stated to be Jenner's personal views. Jenner indicated that the proposed legislation would actually defeat the purposes of the sponsors and would create machinery for persecution of good citizens. He said that he believed the bill to be unconstitutional, and indicated that there was no guide provided for determining whether or not an organization is subversive.

Bureau files also show Jenner was a member of the National Lawyers Guild (cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities) in 1940.

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Subsequent to Jenner's appointment to the staff of the President's Commission, Jenner was ill and confined to a hospital. Our Chicago SAC personally delivered a report of our investigation on the assassination and at that time Mr. Jenner appeared most appreciative and indicated he was serving the Commission at the direct request of Chief Justice Earl Warren. He expressed his very high regard for the Director and the FBI, indicating that he became acquainted firsthand with the reports of the Bureau when serving on a Loyalty Commission in Washington years ago. He said that he had always noticed that our reports were completely impartial and factual.

In February, 1964, Marina Oswald obtained a new attorney, William A. McKenzie. McKenzie confidentially advised the Bureau that while representing Oswald at the President's Commission in February, 1964, Jenner questioned Robert Oswald in detail and asked some very leading questions, such as "Did the FBI ever harass you during the course of the interview of you or Marina Oswald?," and "Do you think the various agencies such as the FBI and Secret Service are doing a good job or if not, what do you think the trouble is?" McKenzie indicated that on 2/21/64 when he and Robert Oswald were out to lunch he was approached by a "New York Times" writer. No questions were answered, but the writer indicated he was waiting for Mr. Jenner, and McKenzie subsequently observed Jenner talking with the "New York Times" man. Following this, an article appeared in the "New York Times" by that same writer wherein certain erroneous statements were attributed to the testimony of Robert Oswald. Thereafter, before the Commission, the question came up about someone on the Commission staff leaking information to the "New York Times" and McKenzie advised one of the officials of the Commission that he was fairly certain who the person was that leaked the information. Thereafter, Mr. Rankin contacted Mr. McKenzie and asked who the person was on the Commission's staff that leaked information to the press. McKenzie would not name the person because he could not prove the fact with any specifics. (105-82555, 23-24; 62-109090,23,39)

WESLEY J. LIEBLER, Assistant to Rankin

Bureau files contain no information identifiable with Liebler.

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NORMAN REDLICH, Assistant to Rankin

On 12/22/63 a New York informant advised Norman Redlich, professor at New York University, was working with the President's Commission. On 12/31/63 a memorandum was prepared showing subversive derogatory information in Bureau files. On 1/3/64 the memorandum was given to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the President's Commission, and by letter 3/16/64 Mr. Rankin requested the Bureau to initiate a full-field investigation of Redlich.

A Security of Government Employees investigation was thereupon initiated, which disclosed Redlich generally regarded as an "active civil rights libertarian" and strongly sympathetic to the cause of civil liberties. He was a subscriber to "National Guardian" prior to June, 1952, (cited by House Committee on Un-American Activities). He has since 1955 been active as a sponsor and/or speaker of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) and the National Committee to Abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA). Both of these groups have been cited by HCUA as communist front groups. Redlich admitted membership in the ECLC on a form submitted in connection with his current employment, but stated "Have never paid membership dues but have been listed on National Council since 1961."

He has been associated with Harry Magdoff and represented Magdoff when he was subpoenaed to appear before HCUA in 1961. Elizabeth T. Bentley identified Magdoff as member of a Soviet espionage group active in Washington, D. C., during early 1940's. Redlich has also been associated with Isidore Gibby Needleman, who was formerly employed by Amtorg Trading Corporation, registered Russian trade agency in the United States; has represented current and former Communist Party (CP) members before Congressional committees and in the courts; has served as a custodian for CP funds and has described himself as favoring strict adherence to Marxist-Leninist doctrines. In 1961 Redlich, Boris I. Bittker, and Edmond Cahn, latter individuals listed as references, were among a group of professors who signed a statement which condemned Supreme Court decision upholding registration provisions of Internal Security Act of 1950, which required the Communist Party of the United States to register as a "communist action" organization. In 1962 Redlich was one of a group of university professors who signed a petition for clemency to President of the United States in behalf of Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson (Braden and Wilkinson former members of the CP and convicted for refusing to testify concerning their CP membership before the HCUA). In 1953 Redlich co-authored an article with Laurent B. Frantz, (identified CP member) concerning the Fifth Amendment.

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When information reached the public concerning Redlich's association with the President's Commission, it resulted in numerous critical editorials in newspapers throughout the country as well as critical comments in Congress. In addition, numerous individuals wrote the Bureau stating their opposition to an individual with Redlich's background being associated with the President's Commission.

Redlich is currently maintained on Section A of the Reserve Index. (100-441512; 140-29239)

W. DAVID SLAWSON,
ARLEN SPECTER, Assistants to Rankin
SAMUEL A. STERN,

Bureau files reveal no pertinent information identifiable with these individuals.

HOWARD P. WILLENS, Assistant to Rankin

Willens was investigated by the Bureau in 1955 for the position of law clerk in the Antitrust Division of the Department. The investigation was brought up to date in 1961 at which time he was being considered for the position of attorney, Criminal Division. These investigations revealed no derogatory information concerning him; however, some derogatory information was developed concerning his father, Joseph Robert Willens.

The father's name appeared on the mailing list of the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, an affiliate of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, which has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. It was also determined that the senior Mr. Willens was a next-door neighbor of Tony Accardo, prominent Chicago hoodlum. Mr. Willens was interviewed by the Bureau in 1961. He indicated he was opposed to communism and the types of government existing behind the Iron Curtain. He denied any affiliation or association with any cited organization. He admitted being a neighbor of Accardo's but said he had no association with him or any of his friends. (77-67364)

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In March, 1964, our Dallas Office advised that Mr. Willens, Department attorney on special assignment to the Commission, was in Dallas. He was advised of duplication of work by dual interviewing of witnesses in that the Bureau had interviewed several individuals and the Commission attorneys were reinterviewing these witnesses. The Director commented in connection with this communication "I would suggest we take this up with Rankin and see if we can't withdraw and let his attorneys take the statements. We are wasting man power, time and money. In future, don't deal with Willens, he is a mere underling."

This matter was discussed with Rankin and he instructed Commission attorneys to cease the duplication. (62-109060-2762)

PHILLIP BARSON,
JOHN HARTSELY,
MURRAY J. LAULICHT, Staff Members

Bureau files reveal no pertinent information identifiable with these individuals.

RICHARD MITCHELL MOSK, Staff Member

Richard Mitchell Mosk is the son of Stanley Mosk, Attorney General of the State of California. No investigation has been conducted regarding Richard Mosk and our files contain no pertinent information identifiable with him.

Relative to Stanley Mosk, Bureau files indicate that he was a member of or affiliated with five subversive organizations during the middle and late 1940's, including the National Lawyers Guild and American Youth for Democracy. We have had difficulties in the past with Mosk regarding the differences between the Bureau's crime statistics as published in the Uniform Crime Report Bulletin and the California Statistics for Crime published by the State of California. It will be recalled that Mosk recently made inquiry into what he called the lack of cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the Frank Sinatra kidnaping case. He was informed of the facts by the SAC, Los Angeles. (62-109090-109)

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STUART R. POLLAK, Staff Member

In 1963 we investigated Stuart Robert Pollak, born 8/24/37, for the position of attorney with the Criminal Division of the Department. Pollak, a Harvard Law School graduate, was then employed as a clerk with the United States Supreme Court. The investigation was favorable. (77-92695)

ALFREDDA SCOBEY, Staff Member

Bureau files reveal no pertinent information identifiable with this person.

CHARLES N. SHAFFER, Staff Member

In 1958 we investigated Shaffer for the position of attorney, Criminal Division of the Department. This investigation was favorable.

LLOYD L. WEINREB, Staff Member

In 1964 we investigated Weinreb for the Department. He was being considered for the position of attorney in the Criminal Division. The investigation was entirely favorable.

He is a Harvard Law School graduate and was formerly employed as a law clerk to Justice Harlan, U. S. Supreme Court. (77-94540)

With regard to the individuals who are listed as lawyers, secretaries and clerks, Bureau files contain no record or no pertinent information except for the following. It should be noted that the article contains no identifying data concerning these individuals; therefore, it was necessary to limit the search of our records to the name only.

STEPHEN G. BREYER
PAUL DODYK

We have not investigated either of these individuals. However, our files show that both Breyer and Dodyk, in 1959, notified the Department of State that they were American students who planned to attend the Vienna Youth Festival. Both indicated

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they realized that this was a communist-sponsored propaganda exercise, however, they desired to attend as loyal and well-informed young Americans and would be in a position to calmly present the facts in defense of America and the American point of view. They both expressed a desire not to do anything harmful to the interest of the United States and asked the Department of State if there was any official objection to their attendance. State advised both students that it was a matter for their own decision.

Information received in 1960 indicated that Breyer and Dodyk had been expelled from Russia for deviating from the prescribed route in that they had traveled to a city where Dodyk had relatives living which was not in accordance with the authority granted. They both received publicity in the United States as a result of their expulsion. (62-106275, 100-431394)

Bureau files contain no other information identifiable with these individuals.

JULIA EIDE

Mrs. Eide was investigated as a departmental applicant in 1953. No derogatory data was developed. In 1955 an Atomic Energy Act Applicant investigation was conducted and again no derogatory information was developed concerning her.

Mrs. Eide is the mother-in-law of SA Jesse L. Orr, presently assigned to the Denver Office. As a matter of interest, Mr. Rankin was interviewed in the 1955 investigation. He stated he recommended Mrs. Eide highly as she had been employed as his private secretary since he assumed office in the Department. (77-58728)

BEVERLY HECKMAN

This individual was investigated at the request of the Atomic Energy Commission as an applicant in 1955 in connection with her employment as a secretary in the Department of Justice. No derogatory information was developed.

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LELA B. HEWLETT

Mrs. Hewlett was investigated as a departmental applicant in 1953. No derogatory security information was developed.

ELAINE JOHNSON

The Bureau conducted a departmental applicant investigation of Roslyn Elaine Johnson in 1961. No derogatory information was developed concerning this individual. However, our files do disclose that a father-in-law of Mrs. Johnson's sister had been a member of the Communist Party in Blue Island, Illinois, in 1943. There is no indication of any close relationship between Mrs. Johnson and her sister or any indication of any relationship between Mrs. Johnson and her sister's father-in-law. (77-88672, 140-10865)

ADELE W. LIPPARD

A departmental applicant investigation was conducted concerning Adele W. Lippard in 1954 and again in 1962 where she being considered for secretarial-clerical employment. No unfavorable information was developed.

DAVID LUHM

An applicant investigation was conducted concerning Luhm at the request of the Department (Immigration and Naturalization Service) in 1963. No derogatory information was developed.

ELLA MC CALL

One Ella Marie McCall, believed to be identical with Ella McCall of the Commission, was the subject of a departmental applicant-type investigation in 1961 and 1962. This investigation resulted favorably/

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By letter dated 5/27/57 the CSC advised her employer in the Department of the Air Force as follows:

[redacted]

JEAN MILLARD

This individual may be identical with Jean Louise Millard, subject of an Atomic Energy Applicant investigation in 1950, which developed no derogatory data. (116-206608)

VAUGHNIE PERRY

This individual was investigated at the request of the Department in 1951. She was being considered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for a position of clerk-typist. No derogatory information was developed.

MARY ANN ROWCOTSKY

This individual was investigated by the Bureau at the request of the Department in 1963. No derogatory information was developed. It was ascertained she had been employed as a clerk-stenographer in the Criminal Division of the Department since February, 1963. (77-92808)

JAY VOGELSON

This individual may be identical with Jay Michael Vogelson, investigated in 1963 as a departmental applicant, honor recruit, Criminal Division. Only derogatory data developed was that one former teacher at Lehigh University declined to recommend, stating applicant very outspoken on many and various subjects but declined to express any political views. An individual believed identical with applicant's father registered a preference for the American Labor Party (ALP), New York City in 1942 and 1943. The House Committee on Un-American Activities has cited the ALP indicating the communists had captured the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections thereof, but had been unable to win control outside of New York City. (77-92410)

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MARGARET YAGER

This person may be identical with Margaret Catherine Yager, originally investigated in 1947 when an applicant as stenographer in the Antitrust Division of the Department. She was reinvestigated in 1951 when applicant for clerk-steno in the Antitrust Division. No derogatory information was developed. (77-34828)